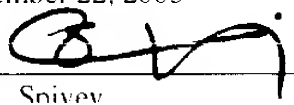




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Date: September 22, 2003


Christine M. Spivey

PATENT
36856.394

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Applicant: Masashi MORIKAMI | Art Unit: 2832 |
| Serial No.: 09/708,817 | |
| Filed: November 8, 2000 | Examiner: K. D. Easthom |
| Title: VARIABLE RESISTOR | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop DD
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, submitted herewith are copies of three (3) references cited in the Examination Report issued in a corresponding Japanese Patent Application. For the English translation of the Japanese Patent Application, we have enclosed an English translation of the Japanese Examination Report and a completed Form PTO-1449. The statement is not a representation that all of the information cited is necessarily effective as prior art against the application.

Applicants certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign

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application not more than three months prior to the date of this statement, and that this is the first citation of these prior art references by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application.

Applicants petition the Commissioner to consider this information disclosure statement pursuant to C.F.R. § 1.197(d). Enclosed is a Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee. If any additional fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Applicants respectfully request that the disclosed references be made of record in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

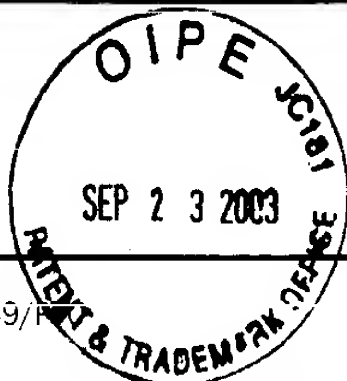


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10400 Eaton Place, Suite 312
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(703) 385-5200



Substitute for form 1449/1

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet **1** of **1****Complete if Known**

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Application Number | 09/708,817 |
| Filing Date | November 8, 2000 |
| First Named Inventor | Masashi MORIKAMI |
| Art Unit | 2832 |
| Examiner Name | K. D. Easthom |
| Attorney Docket Number | 36856.394 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM -YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM -YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ Number-Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | 1 | 1-308001 | 12/1989 | Japan | | X |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether of not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Abstract is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.